Conversion of Railway Lines between Darbhanga and Jainagar Stations

†1812. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money provided for the broad gauge railway lines under construction between Darbhanga and Jainagar Stations of the North-Eastern Railway, together with the up-to-date details regarding the progress made in the construction thereof;

(b) the amount of money likely to be spent to complete the said scheme during the current as well as ensuing year; and

(c) the number of years likely to be taken in completion of the said project;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Rs. 10 crores. Tenders for earthwork are in process and the work is being taken up.

(b) The budget provision in the current year is Rs. 10 cr. Outlay for next year will be known when the budget is presented. Expenditure will be known when the year is over and accounts are finalised.

(c) No target date has been fixed. Completion will depend on availability of resources in the coming years.

Constrution of Railway Crossing on Hissar-Bikaner Rail Line

1813. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters she or the Ministry received during the last one year for construction of railway crossing at 11 kms. away towards Hissar to Dera on Hissar-Bikaner rail line at Gang no. 9, Pole No. 12-13, from the fund out of Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme; and what action has been taken in this regard;

(b) whether it is a fact that inspite of many requests from members of Parliament, no estimate has been prepared so far in this regard;

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay and by which date the estimate would be prepared; and

(d) what action is being taken by Gvoernment for early construction of said railway-crossing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. References have been received from Additional Dy. Commissioner-cum-Chief planning and Development Officer. Hissar and from Hon'ble M.P. for manning of Level Crossing under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), at Kms. 11/12-13 (Gang No. 9. Pole N. 12-13). As there is no unmanned level crossing at this location, providing of new level crossing is not permissible under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme.

Rail Projects in Tamil Nadu

1814. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the schemes/projects in Tamil Nadu that were included in the current year's budget, for which necessary approvals have not been given so far;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay; and

(c) whether Government would give necessary approval without further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The Salme—Cuddalore Gauge Conversion project in Tamil Nadu was included in the current year (1999-2000) Budget. Action has been initiated to obtain the necessary clearances.

Conversion of Rail Lines in Rajasthan

1815. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to convert all the meter gauge rail lines to broad gauge in Rajasthan;